

For Immediate Release:

City of Marathon Secures Additional \$1.3 Million for Sombrero Boulevard Drainage Improvements

MARATHON, Fla. - Dec. 18, 2025 – The City of Marathon has been awarded an additional \$1,304,090 in grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program, bringing the total state funding for the Sombrero Boulevard Drainage Improvements project to \$2,511,775. This additional funding represents a significant expansion of the project scope and demonstrates the state's strong commitment to protecting coastal cities from flooding.

The supplemental grant, awarded through the program's fiscal year 2025-2026 additional funding appropriation, will be incorporated into the city's current grant agreement (26SRP10) for the Sombrero Boulevard Drainage Improvements project. With the additional resources, the city will be able to expand drainage solutions to address flooding challenges along Sombrero Boulevard.

The Sombrero Boulevard Drainage Improvements project will address persistent flooding issues in the area by upgrading the stormwater management system and enhancing drainage capacity. The improvements are designed to protect property, improve roadway safety and reduce the impact of heavy rainfall and storm surge on the community.

"Our grants coordinator, Maria Covelli, in coordination with Weiler Engineering, worked diligently to secure this funding, and we're grateful to the Department of Environmental Protection for their support." **said City Manager George Garrett.** *"This project is part of our comprehensive strategy to protect Marathon's infrastructure and ensure our community remains resilient for generations to come."*

Project Highlights:

- Additional award: \$1,304,090
- Total FDEP funding: \$2,511,775
- Original grant agreement: 26SRP10
- Funding source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program FY 2025-2026
- Project focus: Comprehensive drainage system upgrades and stormwater management improvements
- Timeline: Work plan development to begin immediately, with construction anticipated in 2026

The Resilient Florida Program, administered by the DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, provides funding to local governments across the state to prepare for the impacts of flooding, sea level rise and other climate-related challenges. Marathon's project was selected through a competitive application process (Grant Application RAN-01867).

This award builds on Marathon's ongoing efforts to enhance community resilience, including multiple active projects funded through state and federal grant programs focused on infrastructure improvements, flood mitigation and climate adaptation.

For more information about the Sombrero Boulevard Drainage Improvements grant or any other grant initiatives, contact Maria Covelli at covellim@ci.marathon.fl.us

About the Resilient Florida Program

The Resilient Florida Program was established to help communities across Florida prepare for the impacts of flooding and sea level rise. The program provides funding for vulnerability assessments, resilience planning and infrastructure projects that enhance community resilience to coastal storms and flooding. For more information, visit FloridaDEP.gov.

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